

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 186632 TOSEC 080204
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DRAFTED BY INR/RNA/NE:MGBANNERMAN/BBAXTER
APPROVED BY INR:MPACKMAN
INR/RNA:PHSTODDARD
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S E C R E T STATE 186632 TOSEC 080204

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS), SA

SUBJECT: BIO INFO ON BARAK

REF: SECTO 8085

FOR SAUNDERS FROM PACKMAN AND KIRK

1. FOLLOWING IS BIO INFORMATION YOU REQUESTED ON
BARAK:

2. WELL-KNOWN AND RESPECTED FOR HIS RESEARCH AND
PUBLICATIONS ON LEGAL ISSUES, AHARON BARAK PREVIOUSLY
SERVED AS THE DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF LAW AT HEBREW
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UNIVERSITY IN JERUSALEM. HIS NEW POSITION AS ATTORNEY
GENERAL HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS ONE OF GREAT POWER AND
RESPONSIBILITY WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT'S ADMINISTRATIVE
MACHINERY. BARAK IS THE FIRST ISRAELI ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO
HAS NEVER ENGAGED IN THE PRACTICAL FIELD OF LAW. AS A
RESEARCHER AND TEACHER, HIS ACHIEVEMENTS HAVE BEEN IN THE
ACADEMIC WORLD AND CONFINED TO THE THEORETICAL ASPECTS

OF LAW. BARAK, WHO SERVED ON GOVERNMENTAL LEGAL COMMITTEES PRIOR TO HIS PRESENT POST, WAS THE CHAIRMAN OF AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE USE OF DRUGS IN ISRAEL IN FEBRUARY 1976.

3. BORN IN KOVNO, LITHUANIA, BARAK EMIGRATED TO ISRAEL IN 1947. WHILE A LIEUTENANT IN THE ISRAEL DEFENSE FORCES, BARAK SERVED IN THE OFFICE OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER TO THE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF. HE RECEIVED HIS MASTER'S DEGREE IN JURISPRUDENCE IN 1958 AND HIS PHD IN 1963, BOTH FROM HEBREW UNIVERSITY. DURING 1970-72, HE WAS A GUEST PROFESSOR AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF LAW. HE WAS A LEGAL OFFICER AT THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1973. BARAK, WHO HAS ALSO DONE LEGAL RESEARCH AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY, WAS A CO-WINNER OF THE 1975 ISRAEL PRIZE IN LAW.

4. BARAK, 40, IS MARRIED. HE AND HIS WIFE, ELISHEVA, WHO HAS ALSO STUDIED LAW, HAVE FOUR CHILDREN: DAUGHTERS ESTER, 12, MIKHAL, 9, AND TAMAR, 7, AND SON AVNER, 14. CHRISTOPHER

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